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## Discourses of transformation for social justice in higher education

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# DISCOURSES OF TRANSFORMATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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29 June 2018

**'EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION' INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL**





# HIGHER EDUCATION?

Schools idealised as agents of social reform

Universities idealised as agents of ...  
private gain/ public good/ common goods



## IDEAL VS REALITY

What is experienced, and patterns of outcomes indicate that

Educational opportunities and outcomes are not distributed equally

Educational institutions serve to perpetuate and

**Educational institutions serve to perpetuate and reproduce inequalities**



# FAIRNESS

**Justice as harmony** - based on principles of merit or desert (talent; potential)

1. People should be treated according to their merit.

**Justice as equity** - based on principles of need

2. People should be treated according to what they need.

**Justice as equality** - based on principles of equal treatment

3. Everyone should be treated equally and the same way.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE Summer Camp for Educators



## SOCIAL JUSTICE



# Remedying society's injustices





# TRANSFORMATION SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

reparation      compliance      relevance  
evolution      psychological      context  
social      review      mission

From a comprehensive review of the Integrated Transformation Plans (ITPs) of South African universities (Transformation Strategy Group and Transformation Management Group, 2015)



# HISTORICALLY WHITE INSTITUTION (COLONIAL TIES)

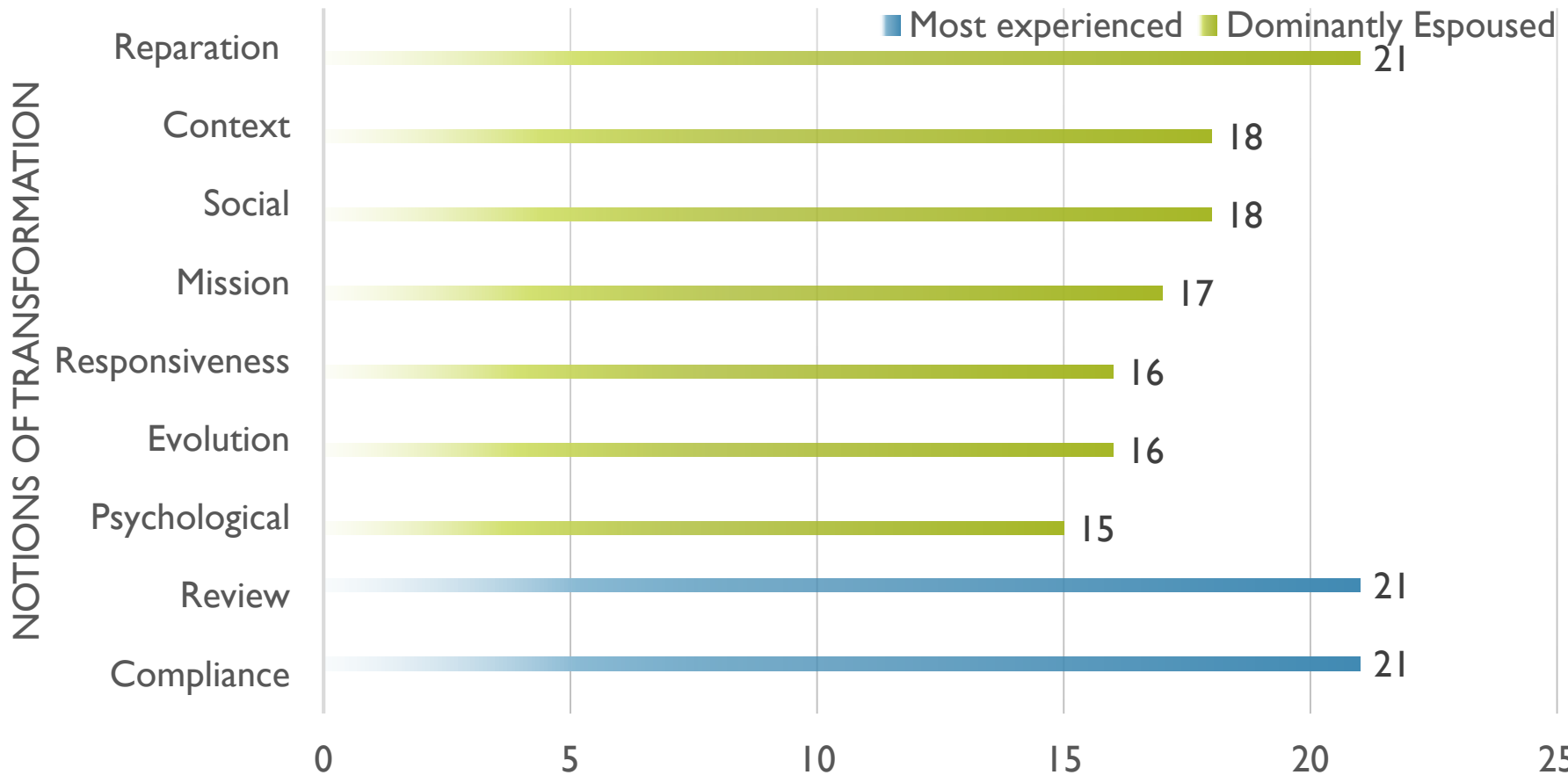


Figure 1. A clear disconnect between those notions of transformation which were most prevalently espoused and those most experienced in practice

From the research project 'Considering the reception of equity-agenda development programmes by its recipients in a rapidly transforming higher education context' Dr Dina Belluigi (Queen's University Belfast) with Dr Gladman Thondhlana (Rhodes University, South Africa)

[Video overview](#)



# REPARATION

A process of making amendments. It is about bringing about radical changes in ourselves and advocating change to structural defects and dehumanising systems for the betterment of higher education whereby it is possible to build a culture of mutual

■ Not experienced   ■ Both espoused and experienced   ■ Experienced   ■ Espoused   ■ N = 21

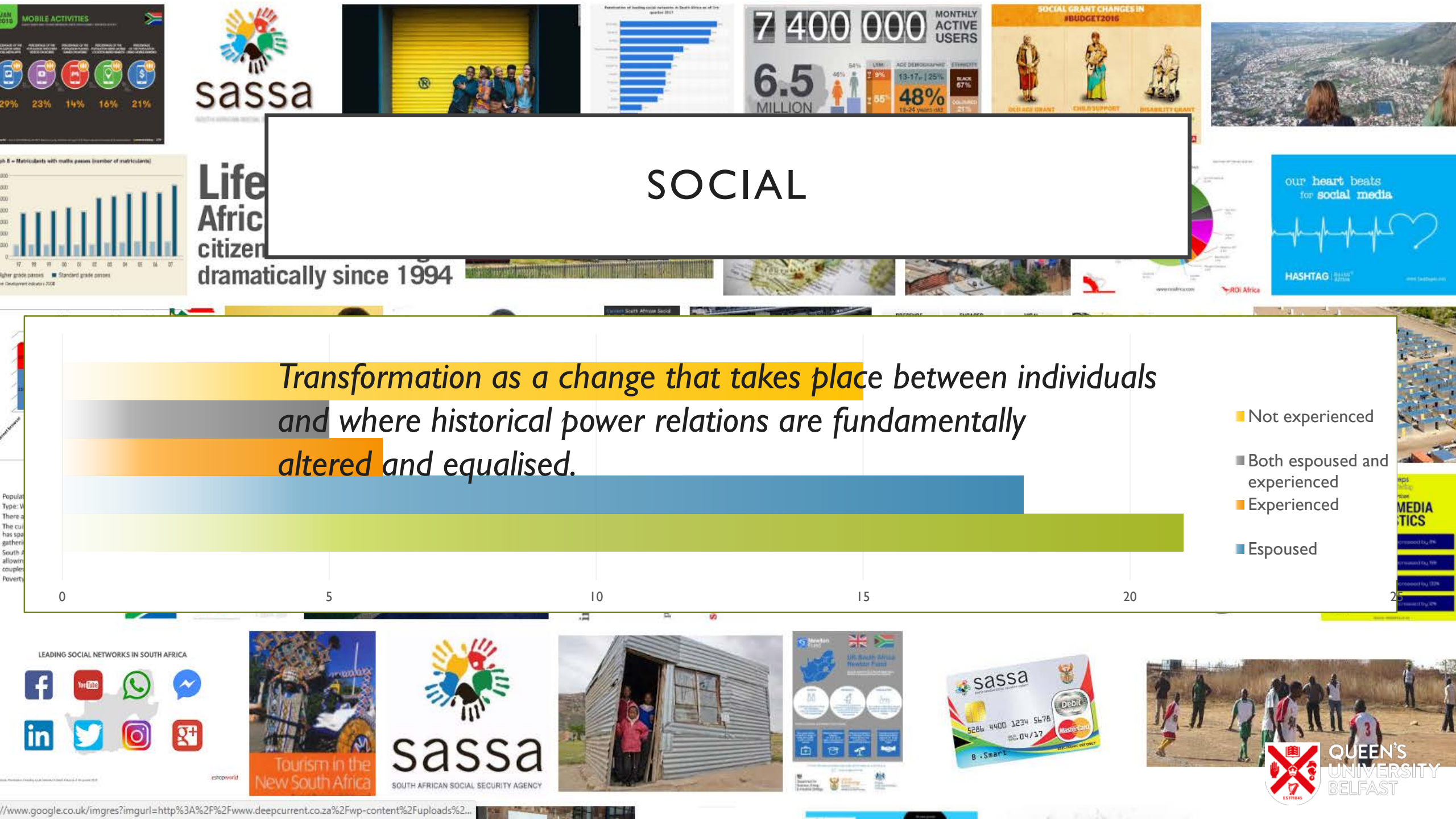


# CONTEXT

*To provide opportunities for an excellent teaching and learning experience that is contextually responsive to the challenges of globalisation and of a society in transition.*

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21



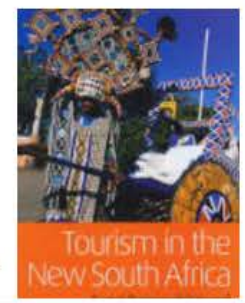


Life Africa citizen dramatically since 1994

# SOCIAL

Transformation as a change that takes place between individuals and where historical power relations are fundamentally altered and equalised.

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused



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## RESPONSIVENESS

*Transformation as a process of becoming useful in and to society at large. It is a multifaceted and integrated process by which a university continuously renews itself in an ongoing effort to complement national development and societal goals.*

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced



# EVOLUTION

*An inevitable (involuntary) process of change. It is an ongoing process and not an event or an end in itself. It is a journey that requires courage, tolerance, fairness, and equity and the willingness and courage to ask the difficult questions.*

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21

# PSYCHOLOGICAL

*Change that takes place in individuals. It refers to the change process that takes place in people. In involves the promotion of moral, ethical and social values as well as the enhancement of moral regeneration.*

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21

**in Africa – they had a natural psychology.**

–Carl Jung, Meetings with Jung, Page 236

one interact with the greater world.

Psychologists use their knowledge to assist people be healthier in the way they relate with their environment and contented with themselves. They do this by observing, interviewing, testing them and analysing their thoughts and behaviour.

**Antisocial Personalities: Prevalence among offenders in South Africa**

**ROOTED IN:**

THE DPGP, SASCP & PSYSSA KZN ARE PROUD TO PRESENT  
**LEGISLATION AND CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA**

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# MISSION

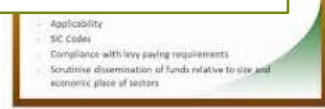
A process of meeting set objectives. Transformation is fundamental and purposeful advancement towards specified goals - individual, collective, cultural and institutional.

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21

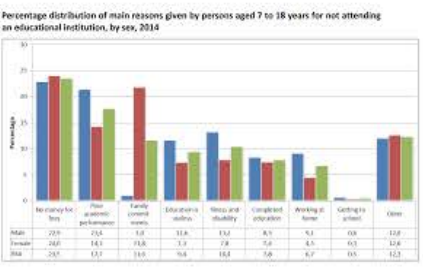
# COMPLIANCE

Transformation as a response to constitutional and legal requirements.

- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21



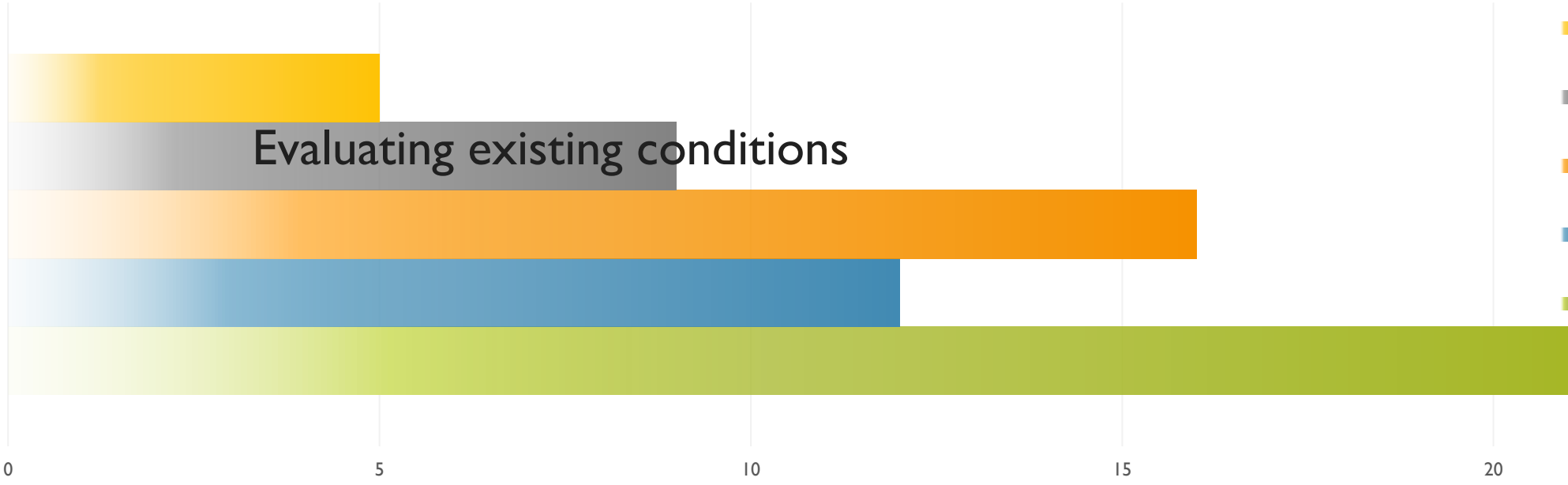




# REVIEW



## Evaluating existing conditions



- Not experienced
- Both espoused and experienced
- Experienced
- Espoused
- N = 21

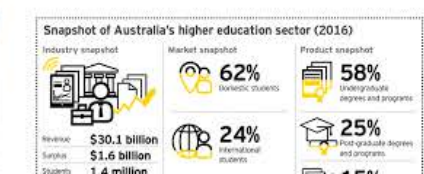


Years of life lost to

Rank	Country	Years of life lost to
1	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
2	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
3	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
4	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
5	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
6	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
7	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
8	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
9	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
10	Algeria	1,138 (100%)

Adult literacy rates (15 and older)

Rank	Country	Adult literacy rates
1	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
2	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
3	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
4	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
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6	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
7	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
8	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
9	Algeria	1,138 (100%)
10	Algeria	1,138 (100%)



## ESPOUSED TRANSFORMATION

Cutting across the notions of transformation prevalent in South African HEIs is an Enlightenment narrative aimed at

*the development of an inclusive narrative of progress and equality in mind: one that can facilitate the fundamental reconstitution and re-expression of the role of the university in wider society; as well as contributing to the reconfiguration of an economy based on the goals of social justice, democracy and human solidarity*

(Transformation Strategy Group and Transformation Management Group, 2015, p. 5).



(Durkheim)

Slow subtle changes to **keep  
the foundation intact**  
Society as a body

## UNDERPINNING TENSIONS

(Critical - Marx; CRT; BFT)

Rupture, challenge cos  
**the system is broken**

Functionalism



Conflict Theory

# TRANSFORMATION

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